

Covered Bridge
Cynthiana, Kentucky
Harrison Co.

HABS No. 20-20

HABS

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49-CYNTH,

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 20

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
G. M. Grimes, District Officer
304 Martin Brown Building
Louisville, Kentucky

Name of structure: Covered Bridge

Location: Cynthiana, Harrison County, Kentucky

Owner or
custodian: State Highway Commission

Address: The Capitol, Frankfort, Kentucky

Date built: 1807
(approx)

Architect
or builder: John Wallace

Present
condition: Fair

Number of
stories:

Material used
in construction: Piers: Native stone, random size.
Skew backs: Oak.
Other heavy timbers: Poplar.
Timbers are spiked together with
hand-wrought spikes.
Roof: Hand-made wood shingles.

Description: An early Order Book in the Harrison
architectural County Court House at Cynthiana, Kentucky,
and historical records the following:

"In January, 1807, Samuel McMillein, James Finley, Wm. Stephenson, Wm. Moore and Josephus Perrin, were appointed Commissioners to draft a plan for a Bridge across the South Fork of Licking, opposite the Town of Cynthiana, to fix on the eligibile place for said bridge to cross said fork, for the materials of which it shall be made, and to open subscriptions to raise money to defray a part or the whole of the expense of erecting said Bridge".

In July, 1807, a report was made showing subscriptions amounting to \$500 to "help defray" expenses. Letting of the building of the bridge was "advertised in the Palladium and such other places as seemed proper". The

"Undertaker" was required to keep the bridge in repair for seven years after the completion.

The building of the bridge was let to John Wallace, July 25, 1807, for \$1,594.00.

The bridge was ready for wagons to cross in December, 1808.

While the bridge was being built, a ferry was operated by Alexander Walker at the following rates:

"For a man and horse 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢
For a single man, or a horse, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢
For every coach, wagon, chariot
and the driver, 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢
For every four-wheeled chair-phaeton
and driver 25¢
For every two-wheeled riding carriage 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢
For every hogshead of tobacco 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢
For every head of meat cattle 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢
For every sheep, goat, hog or lamb 1/5
part of the ferriage of one horse".

All "voters at Elections, all Militia men on public muster days, and all Justices and Sheriffs are carried without their paying any reward for same".

This old bridge, still in perfect condition, played an important part in General Morgan's Raid on Cynthiana during the Civil War.

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G. M. Grimes
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